

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-12 PM-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 OMB-01 EB-08 AID-05 IGA-02
MCE-00 IO-13 DOE-11 SOE-02 /115 W
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R 251834Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0885
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 0820

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, VE
SUBJECT: ARMS LIMITATION UNDER AYACUCHO DECLARATION

REF: STATE 015196

1. VENEZUELA CONTINUES TO VIEW THE AYACUCHO DECLARATION
AS VIABLE. BY THAT WE MEAN THAT THE DECLARATION HAS NOT BEEN
REPUDIATED BY ANY OF THE SIGNATORIES AND THAT
THE VENEZUELAN CONTINUE TO TAKE IT SERIOUSLY AS A REGIONAL
STATEMENT OF GENUINE INTENT TO RESTRAIN ARMS RACES.

2. VENEZUELA WOULD NO DOUBT SUPPORT AN INITIATIVE BY ANOTHER
MEMBER OR MEMBERS TO RECONVENE ANOTHER MEETING OF THE SIGNATORIES
AND IT MIGHT EVEN BE WILLING TO TAKE SUCH AN INITIATIVE. WITH
RESPECT TO PRACTICAL STEPS, HOWEVER, PRESIDENT PEREZ FAVORS ARMS
LIMITATIONS BUT DOESN'T BELIEVE THAT ARMS PER SE ARE THE PROBLEM.
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RATHER HE BELIEVES THAT ARMS RACES ARE REALLY ONLY A SYMPTOM OF
TENSIONS. IN HIS VIEW, THE WAY TO REDUCE ARMS PURCHASES IS TO
REDUCE TENSIONS. FOR EXAMPLE, IN THE CASE OF THE CHILE-PERU ARMS
RACE HE BELIEVES THE SOLUTION LIES IN SETTling THE BOLIVIA-PERU-
CHILE ISSUE. HE CONTINUES TO PUSH THE BOLIVIAN ACCESS TO THE SEA
SOLUTION AND BELIEVES THIS CAN BE ACHIEVED THROUGH ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT.

3. THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT WOULD PROBABLY WELCOME ADHERENCE BY OTHER GOVERNMENTS TO THE PRINCIPLES OF THE AYACUCHO DECLARATION, BUT, ESSENTIALLY, IT VIEWS THE INITIATIVE AS A REGIONAL ONE IN WHICH IT WOULD PLAY A MAJOR ROLE. HOWEVER, IF A MEETING WERE CALLED AND ADDITIONAL COUNTRIES WERE INVITED, VENEZUELA WOULD, IN ALL LIKELIHOOD, NOT OBJECT. ARGENTINA AND BRAZIL COME TO MIND IMMEDIATELY IN THIS REGARD. VENEZUELA FAVORS ARMS LIMITATION AND BELIEVES IN LATIN AMERICAN AND REGIONAL COOPERATION AND INTEGRATION. THEREFORE IT WOULD PROBABLY BE PREPARED TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY ARMS LIMITATION EFFORT WHICH TOOK PLACE WITHIN THE LATIN AMERICAN CONTEXT. IT WOULD PROBABLY, HOWEVER, FAVOR STRUCTURING SUCH AN EFFORT AROUND THE AYACUCHO DECLARATION RATHER THAN INVOLVING OTHER REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.

4. VENEZUELA WOULD CONSIDER PARTICIPATING IN A CALL FOR A LATIN AMERICA-WIDE CONFERENCE, PERHAPS SUPPORTIVE OF SSOD.

5. CONCERNING A POSSIBLE ROLE FOR THE U.S. IN ANY ARMS LIMITATION INITIATIVE, VENEZUELA WOULD, AT A MINIMUM, WELCOME U.S. STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT. HOWEVER, DEPENDING ON THE ISSUE, IT MIGHT EXPECT GREATER U.S. PARTICIPATION. FOR EXAMPLE, IN THE SOLUTION OF THE BOLIVIA-PERU-CHILE PROBLEM, THE VENEZUELANES WOULD PROBABLY SEEK U.S. COOPERATION IN BRINGING PRESSURE TO BEAR ON THOSE COUNTRIES TO REACH A SETTLEMENT. FURTHER, IF SOME FORM OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PACKAGE WERE DEVELOPED FOR BOLIVIA IN THE PROCESS

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OF ARRIVING AT SUCH A SOLUTION, VENEZUELA WOULD PROBABLY EXPECT THE U.S., AS A WEALTHY HEMISPHERIC COUNTRY AND OAS MEMBER, TO CONTRIBUTE MEANINGFULLY TO SUCH A PACKAGE.
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Message Attributes

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